Glaucidium passerinum -- (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- STRIGIFORMES -- STRIGIDAE

Common names: Eurasian Pygmy-owl; Eurasian Pygmy Owl; Pygmy Owl

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status
LC -- Least Concern, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
Date assessed:	2015-03-31
Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
Compiler(s):	Ashpole, J., Burfield, I., Ieronymidou, C., Pople, R., Wheatley, H. & Wright, L.

Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)
EU27 regional assessment: Least Concern (LC)

In Europe this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be stable, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in Europe.

Within the EU27 this species has an extremely large range, and hence does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the range size criterion (Extent of Occurrence 10% in ten years or three generations, or with a specified population structure). The population trend appears to be fluctuating, and hence the species does not approach the thresholds for Vulnerable under the population trend criterion (30% decline over ten years or three generations). For these reasons the species is evaluated as Least Concern in the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Austria; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Italy; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Montenegro; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine

Vagrant:

Belgium; Denmark

Population

The European population is estimated at 99,600-195,000 pairs, which equates to 199,000-391,000 mature individuals. The population in the EU27 is estimated at 32,200-71,400 pairs, which equates to 64,300-143,000 mature individuals. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Trend

In Europe the population size is estimated to be stable. In the EU27 the population size is estimated to be fluctuating. For details of national estimates, see Supplementary PDF.

Habitats and Ecology

The species occupies coniferous and mixed forests and is found mainly in tall forest interior, dominated by conifers and often interspersed with beech (*Fagus*), aspen (*Populus*), birch (*Betula*) and other broadleaved trees used for nesting. It occurs in taiga and montane forest and in lowlands at upper and middle latitudes; in temperate zone ranging from 250–300 m in narrow cool and moist ravines (Holt *et al.* 1999). It is

monogamous and breeds from April to July. The nest is in a tree cavity, either a natural hole or one excavated by a woodpecker; it will also make use of nestboxes. Debris is removed from the hole and no material is added to it (Holt *et al.* 1999, Mikkola 1983). Clutches are usually four to seven eggs. It feeds on small mammals, especially voles, although also shrews (*Sorex*), bats (*Myotis*) and mice (*Micromys*, *Apodemus*) and small birds (Holt *et al.* 1999). The species is mainly resident, although some dispersal occurs during winter and bad weather and low prey numbers can cause irruptive movements (Hagemeijer and Blair 1997).

Habitats & Altitude

Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		Importance	Occurrence
Forest - Boreal		major	resident
Forest - Temperate		major	resident
Shrubland - Boreal		suitable	resident
Shrubland - Temperate		suitable	resident
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands		suitable	resident
Altitude	350-1650 m	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

Breeding densities and numbers can fluctuate significantly with weather conditions and rodent cycles. Despite large scale deforestation in Finland, there is no evidence of population declines there, however in west Germany its disappearance in many areas has been linked to destruction of forests and the resulting changes in ecosystem, such as increase in population of Tawny Owls (*Strix aluco)* at higher elevations (Holt *et al.* 1999). It is also thought that acid rain damage in conjunction with increasing forest disease will weaken trees to storm damage and result in changes in the ecosystem and increased predation from *S. aluco again (*König *et al.* 2008).

Threats & Impacts

Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Biological resource use	Logging & wood harvesting (unintentional effects: (large scale) [harvest])	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion			
Climate change & severe weather	Storms & flooding	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Tawny Owl (Strix aluco)	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Unspecified species	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			
Pollution	Acid rain	**Timing**	**Scope**	**Severity**	**Impact**
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Unknown	Unknown
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CITES Appendix II. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. The species became extinct in the Black Forest by 1967 so a captive-breeding programme was initiated in 1968. By 1995, 150 breeding territories had been established in the Black Forest (Holt *et al.* 1999).

Conservation Action Proposed

The species requires more research to inform conservation measures (König *et al.* 2008). Conservation of forest habitats, including the preservation of old trees and provision of nest boxes would be beneficial to this species.

Bibliography

Hagemeijer, W.J.M. and Blair, M.J. 1997 *The EBCC Atlas of European Breeding Birds: Their Distribution and Abundance.* T & A D Poyser, London.

Holt, W., Berkley, R., Deppe, C., Enríquez Rocha, P., Petersen, J.L., Rangel Salazar, J.L., Segars, K.P. and Wood, K.L. 1999. Eurasian Pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. and de Juana, E. (eds.). 2014. *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from http://www.hbw.com/node/55057 on 11 March 2015).

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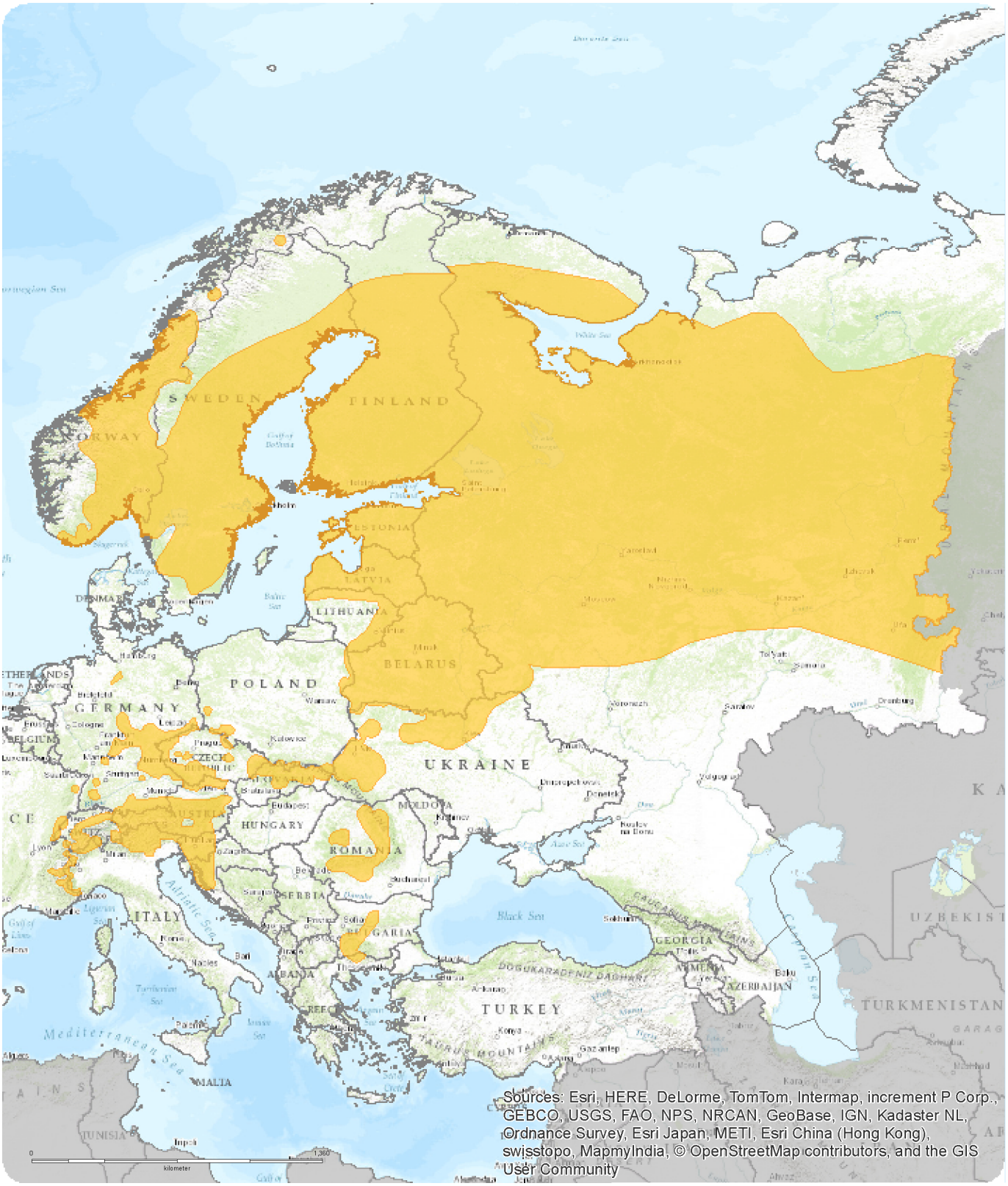
Mikkola, H. 1983. *Owls of Europe.* T & A D Poyser, London.

Map (see overleaf)



Glaucidium passerinum

NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

Extant (resident)

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds

Map created 05/12/2015